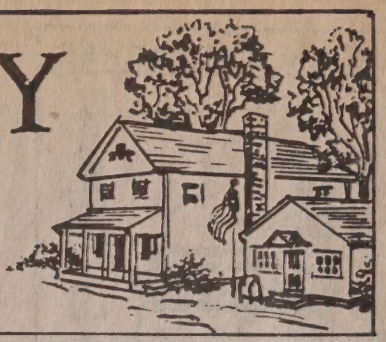
MONTEREY NEWS



DECEMBER 1983

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER

There will be a special Town Meeting on December 19 at 7:30, Monterey Firehouse, to discuss two issues: one, the offer of the North Road Association to rebuild the Rawson Brook Bridge and offer it as a gift to the town and, two, a request by Arnie Hayes for funds to decorate soldiers' graves on Memorial Day.

As it turns out, the wording of Article 12 at the regular Town Meeting last spring was inappropriate to the intentions of the town. Voters were asked to authorize the town to "raise and appropriate" the $36,000 it will take to build a bridge by state specifications. The money will be reimbursed by the state. Proper language to describe the transaction would have been "transfer" instead of "raise and appropriate." The word "transfer" (from available funds) prevents the transaction's going into the tax rate. Therefore, voters will be asked to rescind the previous vote on Article 12 and either to accept the offer of the Rawson Brook Association to construct the bridge at its own expense and make it a gift to the town or to change the wording of the original article to "transfer" $36,130 from available funds, pay for the construction of a concrete box culvert bridge, and be reimbursed in full by the state.

RAWSON BROOK BRIDGE

The North Road Association, a group of residents living on New Marlborough and Wellman Roads, was formed after the town meeting voted last May to accept the state's offer of a concrete box culvert to replace the old bridge over Rawson Brook. The Association proposes to sponsor construction of an engineered version of the old bridge, stronger and wider than the original.

This alternative will preserve an attractive and basically sound construction. The abutments are fieldstone laid up on bedrock without mortar, and have held up well under increasingly heavy loads in recent decades. The rebuilt bridge would be five feet wider and have a load rating of 20 tons for single axle vehicles, and 25 tons for trucks with two rear axles, certified by Brown Associates of Pittsfield, who have drawn up complete plans for the new structure. This rating is comparable to the load ratings on other bridges in town, such as the bridge over the Konkapot on Curtis Road. The town fire trucks are 18 tons on a single axle and 25 tons on two axles. The new bridge will meet state standards.

Since the state offered the box culvert at no expense to the town, the North Road Association proposes to make a gift to the town of the reconstructed engineered bridge. It is estimated that the bridge will cost $10,000 to $15,000 less than the box culvert. The North Road group believes the less costly alternative makes good economic sense, regardless of the source of funds.

An article presenting the Association's offer will be on the warrant at a special town meeting set for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 19.

TAX CONFIRMATION LETTERS OUT IN MID-NOVEMBER

The firm of Stevens and Dawson of Great Barrington, as part of its audit of Monterey treasurer's and tax collector's records has sent out notices to taxpayers asking for confirmation of money town records show they owe. If a taxpayer disputes the amount, Stevens and Dawson should be contacted as soon as possible. If the money was paid after June 30, notification is not necessary. The audit only goes up to June 30.

TAX COLLECTOR RESIGNS

Henry Makuc resigned as Tax Collector on November 29, 1983. In a letter written November 14, the Monterey selectmen accepted Makuc's resignation and went on to thank him on behalf of the town for his many years of faithful service.

Drawing by Maureen Banner

★ BENEFIT CONTRA DANCE FOR THE MONTEREY ARTS COUNCIL ★
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 8:30 p.m., MONTEREY FIREHOUSE

CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Masses Schedule

Our Lady of the Valley, Sheffield
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Immaculate Conception, Mill River
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship and Regular Meetings

Church School, Sunday at 10:30 during morning worship. Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with childcare at same time in the Social Room. Choir rehearsal Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m. at the Brallier home. Meditation and prayer, 7:30 a.m. in the Social Room. All are invited. Bible study, Thursdays, 7:45 p.m., at the home of Lucy Smith.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Lessons and Carols—Sunday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.

The great scriptures of Christmas blended together with the carols and other great music of Christmas to create a celebration of the Christmas story. There will be the relighting of the Advent candles along with a ceremony in which each person will have a vigil candle lighted at the conclusion of the service. This is a service to which all the community are invited.

Christmas Caroling—Friday, December 23, 6:30 p.m

This call for those who enjoy singing to bring the cheer of Christmas to shut-in and aged persons in Monterey. We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. and will proceed to the various home with the carols of the Christmas season. This event produces a blend of participants from the quite young to those who are older—producing a blending of younger to older voices—but with one spirit, to spread the joy of Christmas to all. There will be hot chocolate and cookies to climax the evening.

Christmas Sunday Morning Worship—Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

The theme of the worship is "Christmas: Receiving and Giving." The celebration of the event of Christ's birth will dominate the worship in word and song. As in all the worship of the Monterey Church, the whole community is cordially invited to participate.

SHARE THROUGH THE CHRISTIAN CENTER

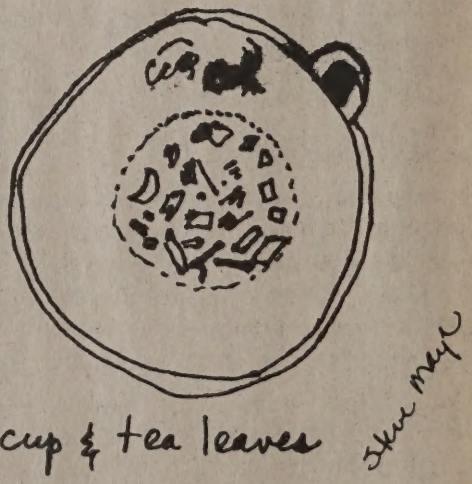
Our church is sponsoring the collection of used clothing and nonperishable food to be distributed through the Christian Center in Pittsfield. People may bring all types of used clothing, linens, kitchen items, nonperishable food—yes, and even money to help in this critically important ministry to the growing number of people in our society living under the poverty line. Collections are in the narthex each Sunday.

CHURCH ADOPTS FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Through the good offices of the Children's Protective Society, our church is providing Christmas for a Berkshire family. There is a mother and daughter, aged 3. Good used clothing is acceptable. Food basket items and pots and pans would be helpful. If you think you have items that would help call Mary Ward, 528-9234.

MONTEREY YOUTH GROUP REACHING TO LARGER YOUTH COMMUNITY

Initiatives are under way for the church to develop a more comprehensive service to the youth of Monterey. Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson have agreed to serve as adult advisors to the youth that will be gathered under the new organizational plan. Plans are now being made to call all the parents of youth to a meeting to discuss programs and plans for this enlarged program to serve Monterey youth. It is anticipated that there will be a balance of programs providing for social-recreational needs, community service and educational events of interest to teen-agers.



SNOWFLAKES, SOULS

I don't know how
you see,
even the simplest
symbol or design.
How then can I begin —
to begin to know,
how you hear
the words that hum
from my heartspring?

— Steve Maye

PATTERNS

Whichever way we look life takes form through patterns. The patterns in each person's life are many. Some patterns relate to the way a person eats, others relate to the use of time and still others reveal the nature of one's relationships. The patterns from person to person are extremely varied. One is a "day" person, the other is a "night" person; one is a vegetarian, the other eats meat; one is withdrawn, the other is gregarious.

How much thought do we give to the patterns that rule our lives? Or do we rule the patterns? Do we choose the patterns or do they choose us? There is a lot of mystery and wonder surrounding the varied patterns in each of our lives—and regarding the wide variations from person to person. A lively curiosity regarding these many patterns interlacing our lives could be a source of much learning for any one of us.

On one hand, patterns seem to be set in concrete; yet from another perspective they appear to be made of water. We are better acquainted with those set in concrete. How ghastly difficult it is to change a destructive habit! How I resolve in the morning, "I will not," only at night to admit, "It happened again today!" Yet have we not all decided at certain points in our lives on something we really are ready to change and the change came into place immediately along with the decision. Patterns set in concrete; patterns made of water. Can we begin to guess how they can be both ways? We may not know, but most of us do know something about both.

The deepest truths in life are of this paradoxical nature. Life refuses to be boxed in by any of our simple descriptions of it. We keep trying to nail down "the way things are," only to find that we nailed down a half-baked picture of things. We don't imagine that we are going to understand patterns, but at least let us try to do some observing about them. And, if possible, maybe we can find ways to use them to our benefit.

Something to celebrate about life patterns is that we can do a lot of living "on automatic." We don't need to re-invent the wheel every day. Indeed, many of the functions we use to get us through a day practically take care of themselves. Some people look down on this ability to do things by virtue of habit, as though the things done by habit can't really be very good. "Wouldn't it be much better if we needed to think to live?" they ask. Heavens, no! I rejoice that so very many things get done with so little thought. This has a great economy about it. The big advantage this offers is that one is freed to use thought and innovative procedures on the growing edge of life. With a bit of training you and I can be using our creative juices in situations in which this is required of us even while we are doing a number of things by habit. Let us accept this part of life's patterning as a blessing and gift.

Ah, you say, but there are plenty of things we find in our life patterns that are occasion for anything but rejoicing. Indeed there are. So let us look at this darker side of things. Here, for instance, is a person who finds much of his life patterned around fear. Whichever way he turns something fearful is presenting itself. The new situation evokes uncertainty—therefore he experiences fear. Familiar situations are also sources of fear, fear ingrained into the everyday events of life. There is no question that the patterning of life seems a dreadful thing when so many of one's responses are marked by fear.

Now we are being pushed harder. Since there is this darker side to life's patterns, let us see if we can learn more of how they take form. Many who find themselves saddled with fear know at least some of the source of their fear. They often have memories of homes in which a climate of fear prevailed. Mother was anxious over the awful things that might happen to her children. Or father was in a panic at any unexpected turn of events. Or there was some tragic happening without reason that seemed to strike out of the blue. And now there is fear. Yes, there is fear almost whichever way one turns. How did these early incidents turn into a pattern, a persistent life pattern marked on all sides by fear?

It has the clear marks of learned behavior. Many people with deeply patterned fears learned them by living in an atmosphere of fear. Most of us would not be brash enough to say that fear patterns come only from situations in which it is learned, yet much of the fear that gets translated into ongoing patterns can be traced to experiences in which people learned to react to certain situations with fear. So, there was the original fear. Now it has been translated into a pattern, and it keeps interjecting itself into one's life at predictable places—and sometimes unpredictable ones. What can be done about it?

If fear can be learned, is it unreasonable to believe it is also possible to unlearn it? If any other of the patterns in our lives seem to exercise a negative influence on us, is it not possible to discover "the other side" which carried positive values for us? In a later article we will turn our attention to the way people have experienced the patterns of life in a negative way, and then later discovered ways to turn these same materials into life-renewing experiences. From time to time I have asked readers of the *Monterey News* to respond with their observations and experiences. I would heartily enjoy hearing from any person who has something to share in his or her experiences wth life patterns.

— Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

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NEWS FROM THE NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL SCHOOL AND MONTEREY KINDERGARTEN

For the fourth year in a row members of the New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department put on a program of fire safety for the children of the New Marlborough Central School. Assistant Chief Paul Harvey organized the program, which was presented on October 17. Mr. Harvey was assisted by Marsha Harvey, Larry Burke and Steve Ball. The program teaches the children four important skills: (1) to drop and roll if their clothes catch on fire; (2) to use the telephone in an emergency; (3) to crawl under the smoke instead of walking in a burning building; (4) to be aware that the fire department is equipped and ready to help when a fire occurs.

The second grade traveled to the home of their teacher, Mrs. O'Connell, in Monterey for a fall picnic. Debbie Barker, Nancy Clapp, Cathy Rodgers, and Ginger Rawling all helped with the driving. After eating they were able to tour Gould Farm, where they saw many different animals.

During the last week of October the fourth grade put on a play for Fire Prevention Week. There were two performances which were attended by all the classes in the school, parents, Elementary Principal Paul W. Langer and School Superintendent Thomas Consolati.

October 31 was Halloween, and the goblins descended on New Marlborough Central School for the event. After lunch all of the children participated in a costume parade on the playground. The weather was so beautiful that day that we were able to have the parade outdoors for a change. After that all of the children returned to their classrooms for a party.

Many of the classes held special events for Halloween. The fourth grade had a costume judging contest and a pumpkin carving contest. In the second grade Mrs. Nancy Clapp helped the children prepare apples on an old-fashioned coring and peeling machine. She returned in time for the party with apple sauce she had made at home with these prepared apples. All the second grade party snacks were nonsugared and nutritious. Carol Sadlowski and Cathy Rodgers also helped with the goodies. Linda Whitbeck and Pam Gillette, second grade mothers, appeared in costumes themselves in honor of the occasion. Also, in conjunction with Halloween, the second grade studied their skeletons.

Grade 1 was very busy this month. Before Halloween they carved a pumpkin in the classroom for the party. The children also helped to decorate the classroom windows for the big event. Many parents have come in to spend some time with their first graders during the school day. They have visited the classroom and some have even stayed for lunch.

Our baking fourth graders have created this month Irish brown bread, cranberry nut pudding and cranberry cupcakes. A stove has been purchased and will be installed soon in one of the basement rooms, enabling all of the classes to learn by cooking.

The fourth grade class has made a donation to the Statue of Liberty Fund. Their gift will be recorded for posterity in the museum there.

The second grade has finished the sea shell science unit in which they studied mollusks and crustaceans. They recited two choral verse poems on the hermit crab and snails for the first graders.

On November 9 the fourth grade took a walking tour of the old mill sites in the village of Mill River. Mr. Homer Stanton was their guide.

Drawing by John Blount

YOUTH NEWS

Brownie Troop #237

For Halloween the girls made paper jack-o-lanterns to hang on a door or in a window. They also enjoyed making shadow puppets—ghosts, witches, pumpkins and black cats which they used to tell spooky stories. The troop also did their good deed and helped to clean up much of the Halloween litter in the center of town.

On November 8, we had our investiture ceremony for Ann Gile and Brook Rubenstein. The girls received their Brownie pins, which were pinned upside down, to be pinned right side up when they did their first good deed at home. Congratulations, Ann and Brook!

Cub Scouts

The Cub Scouts have begun their meetings. They meet at the American Legion Post in Southfield on Tuesday afternoons after school. At their first meeting they hiked to the site of a haunted house. At the second meeting the boys visited Woodsport in Clayton to tour the factory which makes pool cues.

For Christmas the Cub Scouts and other scout groups are planning a crafts workshop.

Members of the Cub Scout troop are Chris Callahan, Joshua Phelps, Kip Loder, Colin Storti, Asa Hardcastle and Michael Ohman. The leaders are Diane Storti, Margie Ohman and Claudette Callahan.

Girl Scouts

There was no news this month.

Special Mention

Sherri Burkholder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burkholder of Gould Farm and a senior at Mount Everett, was awarded the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Certificate of Excellence at the School Committee meeting held on November 17, 1983. Thomas Consolati, Superintendent of Southern Berkshire Regional School District, presented Sherri with her award. Nice job, Sherri!

MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met November 2, when Neighbors Night was observed. Guests were present from Umpachene, Great Barrington, Sandisfield, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Victory, Mellenville, Copake, Cummington and Williamsburg. State officers present were Pomona Deputy Norman Wilcox, Subordinate Deputy Alicia Brazie, Janet Martin, a member of the Membership Committee, Richard Wert, a member of the Youth Committee, and Edith Wheeler, a member of the Home and Community Committee.

Monterey Grange won first prize for Youth Report and Conservation Exhibit, third prize for Safety Report and third prize for Pasture Contest. Eleanor Kimberley won several awards for her photos; one has been sent on to National for judging.

Pomona met at Monterey on November 9; the next meeting was November 16.

Monterey Grange #291 met November 16. Pirate Bingo, in charge of John Lossin, was played. W. Raymond Ward was elected to fill the unexpired term of the late Louis Centrella on the Executive Committee. The Grange furnished the program at the Great Barrington Grange on November 17.

The next meeting will be December 7. Members are asked to bring in articles for the cheer boxes. Raffle tickets are on sale and will be drawn December 17.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

PERC TEST SCHEDULE RESTORED TO ORIGINAL LIMITATIONS

Monterey selectmen received a letter from the DEQE on October 27 which denied that it will not be available to witness and certify deep observation holes in times of year which do not fall within the specified high water seasons in Monterey. Previously DEQE officials, in conversation with Bill Brockman and Jed Lipsky, had agreed to allow petition by individuals aggrieved by the current local test periods.

Title V requires that septic systems and leaching fields be located at least four feet above high water levels in the water table. Monterey perc tests are therefore done in seasons of highest water table levels. To evaluate a test hole in low water table season will require a certain expertise not available in town at the time. So until such time as the Town secures an expert who can be hired by the Town to represent the "issuing authority," that being the local Board of Health, test holes must be dug and evaluated only between April 1 and June 1 and, if rainfall is high enough, between October 1 and November 15.

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Thanksgiving vignette

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GIRL SCOUTS OUTDO THEMSELVES AT THE HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE HARTSVILLE GRANGE

Girl Scout Troop 466 of Monterey and Troops 66 and 496 of New Marlborough hosted a Halloween Party October 29 at the Hartsville Grange for over a hundred young children from Monterey and New Marlborough. There was a fortune teller, apple bobbing on strings, musical chairs, face painting, balloon popping and a house of horrors. There were delicious refreshments. On top of that there was a continuous hayride offered by Boy Scout Troop 39 of New Marlborough. Little ones from pre-school to grade four showed up in elaborate costumes, almost all homemade. There were pirates and gypsies, fairies and witches, bums, vampires, ghosts, and a couple of little old ladies; about three feet tall with big chests and gray wigs. It was a noisy and colorful event, and the Scout leaders Pam Gillette, Linda Whitbeck, and June Stalker, not to mention the beautifully adorned Girl Scouts, all deserve commendation.

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GATEWAYS

Gateways, an organization of health professionals in Monterey, hosted nearly 100 people at its open house on October 29. Most of the staff were present to meet interested townspeople and to answer questions. The following are members of the Gateways staff: David Lippman, M.D.; Jesse Stoff, M.D.; Virgil Brallier, Ph.D.; Marie Brallier; David Bach, M.S.; Judith Bach, B.S.; Ann Eggers, Ms.T.; Angie Sherrard, M.A.; Lilian Papier, Ph.D.

The goal of Gateways is to raise the level of health in the community through education in health maintenance and to provide a group approach to treatment and health care. The services offered by the staff are: medicine, psychotherapy, nutritional counseling, massage therapy, spiritual counseling, laying on of hands, acupuncture, homeopathy and psychiatry. Fees will be established on the basis of family income.

A series of one-day workshops will be offered throughout the year in Monterey that will focus on training participants in self-help skills. The first of these is a massage workshop, offered by licensed massage therapist Ann Eggers on December 3. Ann will teach massage techniques designed to relieve muscular tension and general stress. This workshop is filled. Because of its popularity, it may be offered later in the year.

The treatment plan of Gateways is based on an holistic approach to health care. Such an approach recognizes that no one therapist or single therapy is necessarily the catalyst for healing but rather that a multitherapeutic approach may be the most effective program. For example, an individual may apply to Gateways with an allergy problem. A member of the staff will interview the person and have him or her fill out a questionnaire. Then, during one of the staff meetings, there will be a discussion about the person's problems and symptoms, and it may be determined that he or she should see the staff doctor, Jesse Stoff, for an initial consultation and examination. Then the staff will meet again, and, based on Dr. Stoff's findings and a group assessment, the client may then be encouraged to either undergo further treatment with Dr. Stoff or meet with Lilian Papier, the nutritional counselor, if it is assessed that the problem is a food allergy.

In the opinion of the Gateways staff, the advantage of such an holistic group approach to health care is that the client's needs can be assessed by the combined experience and wisdom of nine people, even though only one or two members of the group may be seen in the course of treatment. For example, the individual with an allergy might think that he or she has emotional problems and could discover that there is an allergy to wheat. Eliminating wheat from the diet often alleviates emotional problems. Or, the reverse could happen: The cause of an allergic reaction might be emotional rather than physical, and therapy sessions with one of the staff counselors might be recommended.

It is Gateways's hope to establish a dialogue between staff members and the community on questions of health care through a health column in the *Monterey News*. Address concerns or questions about your health or the health of your family to Gateways, *Monterey News*, Monterey. If the staff cannot answer your questions, you will be referred to other resources. Please indicate if you wish to remain anonymous.

To apply for treatment to Gateways, call 528-3974.

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KOSMOS

The Moon
is always
in the right
place.

The Sun
is always
in perfect
expression.

— Steve Maye

WORDS FROM THE CHILDREN

It is easy to savor the graceful treasures that come from the mouths of babes in the moment. Their naive, fresh, innocent way with language is often such a relief from the serious commodity of words that we get used to in our "grown up" busyness. Yet it is not always easy to capture these ways that children see and say, they are like rainbows, they disappear much too quickly; which perhaps makes their gem-like brilliance all the more special. Like a butterfly hunter or a comet tracker I decided recently to keep my ears more open to the speech and language—the poetry—happening around me through the children in my life, receiving their "news of the world" in equal stead with all the other "media." I will be passing on to the *Monterey News* words from the children; may we all be led more deeply into wonder by their untamed view.

— Steve Maye

I would be happy to collect those from other listeners out there and type them for the Monterey News.

*****

Ana: "Everyone has hair in their nose. Girls do, too."

*****

"Josh, what is the magic word for the day?" I wondered.

"Well, I wanted to come over and visit and see if anyone was here," replied Josh.

"Is 'visit' the magic word for the day?" I wondered.

"Yes, it was," said Josh.

Ana's bedtime prayer one night:

"God,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the friends and
Nana and Grandad.
Thank you for my dolls and mom and dad.
And thank you for not knocking the house down."

*****

One day at lunch two years ago:

Camellia: "The grillcheese sandwich is a dummy 'cause it didn't fill me up."

*****

Ana at storytime: "Snakes don't have feet, they have tails. I found a bug on the cactus. It had a little shirt."

*****

(In the car)

Naomi: "I'm bigger than Ana and you're bigger than me. You wanna know who's biggest?"
Steve: "Who?"
Naomi: "The clown in the circus!"

*****

(Over the phone)
Steve: "Owen, I want to ask you a question.
Owen: "What?"
Steve: "What is a magical word to you?"
Owen: "What's that?"
Steve: "A word that's special, has magic in it."
Owen: "All words."
Steve: "All words are magical to you?"
Owen: "Yes!"

*****

From Ana being pushed in the hammock, October 20, 1983:

"The hammock is as big as the Sun.
The Sun is as big as the hammock.

The Sun is the Hammock
And the Hammock is the Sun, Ha!
The Sun is the Hammock
And the Hammock is the Sun, Hah!"

*****

(In front of the wood stove)
Steve: "Camellia, what is a magical word to you?"
Camellia: "A what?"
Steve: "A magical word or a very special kind of a thing or creature?"
Camellia: "Oh, like a deer?"
Steve: "A deer is magic to you?"
Camellia: "Yes!, they are in dreams and they are golden. Golden deer."

Steve: Ana, what a nice thumb, where did you get that thumb?
Ana: I don't know . . . God made it. God has a lot of them.

DOUG BROWN

FIRE COMPANY NEWS

Things are quiet around the firehouse now. The wood's in, the days are shorter and shorter. With nothing particular to report, we'll say no news is good. Please resist the temptation to toss the season's wrapping paper into the fireplace or wood stove. As it floats up the flue, burning, it's a sure bet to start a chimney fire, or, worse yet, a structural fire as it floats down on the roof outside. Take care, and enjoy your holiday.

— Peter Murkett

LADIES AID SOCIETY

Ladies Aid holds its Christmas meeting on the third Thursday in December at the home of Marie Brallier. Come and enjoy hearing and singing the old carols.

The November meeting, held at Mary Ward's, combined work (sewing and rolling bandages) with the annual business meeting, at which Helen McKay read the treasurer's report, and all incumbent officers and directors were re-elected. (Lucy Smith presided during the elections.) Mary Ward read a letter from one of the organizations to which we made a small donation, and she contributed a package of cards she had bought from a society of handicapped artists, remarking that they are not a charity—the cards are good.

— Margery Janes

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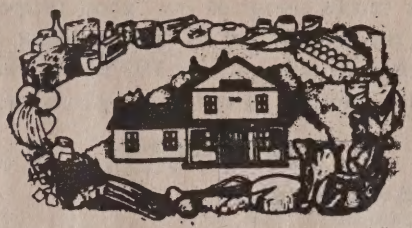

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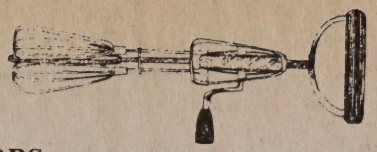


TASTES AND FLAVORS

This recipe fulfills many of my "good recipe" criteria: (a) nutritious; (b) delicious; (c) my children like it. With fresh vegetable prices threatening to rise 18% this winter, it's good to have a wide repertoire of winter squash recipes.

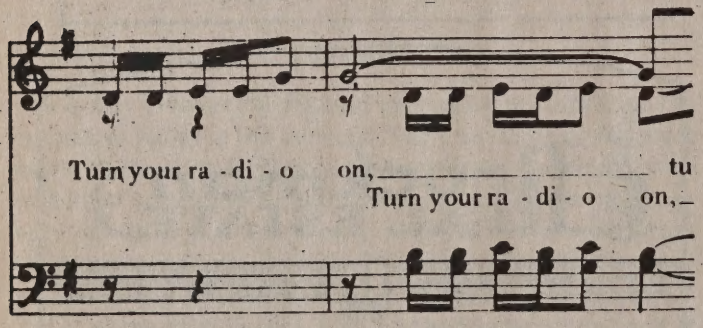
Squash Pancakes

2 cups cooked winter squash
¾ cup flour
4 eggs, separated
½ tsp ginger
¼ tsp nutmeg
3 Tbsp molasses
Butter for skillet

Mis squash, flour, egg yolks, spices and molasses. Beat egg whites 'til stiff, then fold into squash mixture and blend completely. Drop by generously rounded tablespoonsful onto a hot buttered skillet. Turn after about five minutes and brown second side.

These pancakes are sweet by themselves and do not need syrup. They are good with applesauce. My children eat them cold. They call them pancakes but treat them like cookies.

— Leslie Scutellaro



THE RADIOPHILE

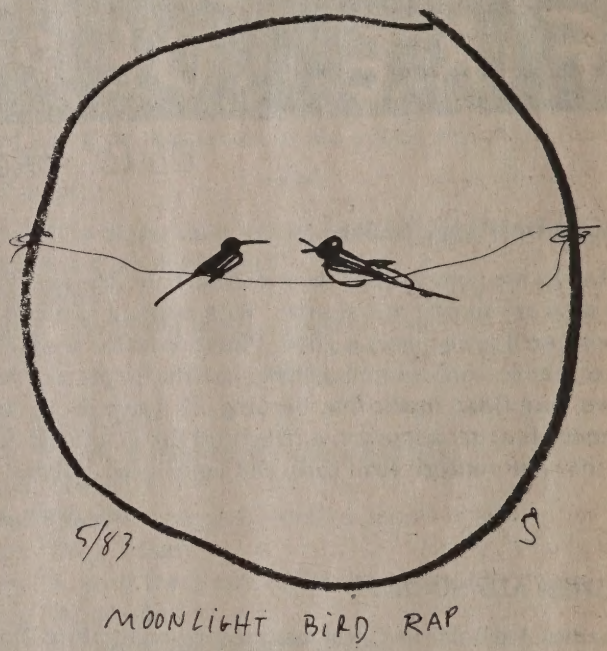
Jerry Kristafer (WDRC, 103 FM) and Robert J. Lurtsema (WFCR, 88.5 FM and WAMC, 90.3 FM) are at opposite ends of the dial and about as far apart in style.

Robert J., as he is affectionately known to his many listeners, broadcasts a low register voice of intellectual calm from 7 a.m. to 12 noon seven days a week. He plays mostly classical music, occasionally including a contemporary singer of ballads or folk songs. He has a live guest performance and interview almost every week. There's a news and weather report at 7, 8 and 9 o'clock. I like his news reporting very much.

Jerry Kristafer is almost a caricature of a disc jockey. His show is on six days a week, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. He likes to have listeners call in and is almost always rude to them. He promotes himself while promoting local businesses. My husband kept listening and laughing, and now I enjoy the show too.

Jerry comes over the air waves as a genuine human being— not a perfect one, often with his foot in his mouth, but you know who he is. He also brings a cast of characters: Doctor Proctor, the Health and Science Editor of Rumor News Radio Network; Bruce Barrett, the West Coast Gossip Reporter, whose office is in the closet (Knocking. "Okay, Bruce, come out of the closet."); and my bro' Milo with the inner city traffic report from the back of a bus. There's helicopter coverage from Jack Crash Cashman ("flying high as a kite"), who did a tremendous job covering the media invasion of Grenada. There was an interview with Henry Kissinger in Grenada: "Hank, what's your view from the Hotel Grenada?" "Lots of water, some hills, a few cars . . . ."

— Leslie Scutellaro



THE WANDERERS

We climbed Monument Mountain the other day. A long, straggly line of hikers snaked uphill; some, out of breath, dropped behind; others who had gotten their second wind forged ahead.

Planets, the wanderers of the night sky, behave like hikers. During December we have a chance to watch the planets hiking into the morning sky. On December 1 *Mars* is forging ahead. Next come Spica and *Venus*, who are just a few degrees apart. Closer to the horizon, near Alpha Librae, is *Saturn*. The waning *Moon* forms the caboose. For those who celebrate New Year's and are awake early on January 1, *Mars* will appear near Spica. *Saturn* is close to Alpha Librae. Then comes *Venus* above Antares. The *Moon* is close to the horizon. *Jupiter* has swung under Earth's belly and has become a morning planet, just climbing over the horizon.

Saturn forges ahead of *Venus* on December 17; the two are only minutes apart (less than one degree), and you might need binoculars to see much fainter *Saturn*. The *Moon* occults *Saturn* on December 29, but you need to be out in the Far West to see it. Here the occultation occurs in mid-morning. Too bad!

— Loul McIntosh

TO A TULIP TREE

Pioneer from the Virginia highlands
Whose ancestors escaped unscathed
The mile deep ice blanket
Of the glacier to the North,

You whose forebears followed
The retreating killer at a cautious distance
Along the Appalachian Ridge
To the ancient Berkshire Hills,

Whee did your grandsire gain a foothold?
And when?

Does your stock come from the majestic trees
Near Bartholomew's Cobble?
Or do you trace your ancestry
To the great boles that try to touch the clouds
At Chesterwood?

Is the lone specimen
On Monument Mountain Road
Among your forebears?

Or is it the one on Wellman Road
Less than a mile from where
Your parent cast its seed?

Do you know that your siblings
Have gained a precarious foothold
Along the ridge hugging trail?

Did you see your relatives
Growing on the sunbathed side of that ridge?
They kept an eye on the salmon
That are now returning to the Connecticut River.

Do you remember when I dug you up from that trail
Some years back,
Brought you down
And planted you in a sun filled lawn near my house?

Did you feel it when I watered you
In the drought stricken days of summer?
Were you aware that I held my breath
When winter storms threatened to unearth you?

You have a neighbor now
Whose seed came from Bartholomew's Cobble
And was sprouted in the greenhouse.
Guard your cousin who is younger than you
That both of you may thrive.

Your speckled bark is immature.
Your footwide leaves are signs of youth;
As yet you have not put forth green yellow blossoms.

I hope to see tulip flowers
As you grow into adulthood
And I slide into old age.

You will shade my house in summer
And let the feeble winter sun
Shine through your branches
To warm my home in winter.

You will be a blessing to me
In years to come
As I blessed you
When I planted you near me.

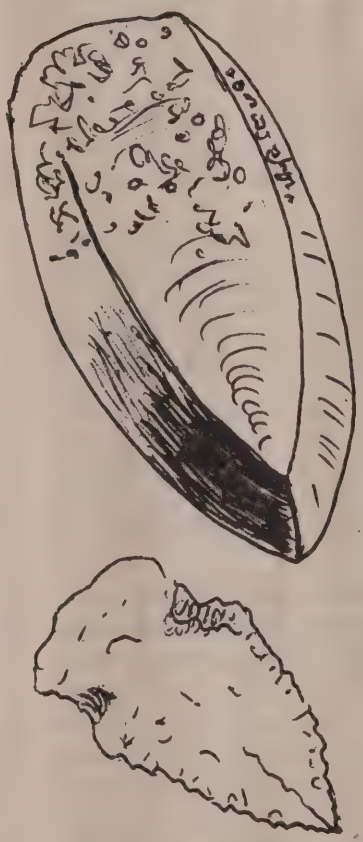
August 1983

— Loul McIntosh

LOCAL LORE (cont'd)

INDIAN NOTES

Stone Tools of the Mahicans



For half a million years of human history we have used stone tools. When the last steel knife or bomb casing has rusted away, the stone knives, axes, and scrapers of our recent and ancient ancestors will still be lying intact, where they were put down or lost long ago.

The Mahicans, before European contact, had an impressive inventory of blades and projectile points made by the universal methods of flaking, grinding and polishing. The tools depicted here were discovered during the lifelong research into Mahican prehistory of Richard Crittendon, recently retired postmaster of Otis. The adze blade, made of tough "Chester emery stone," was pecked into rough shape by many light blows of a hammer stone and then ground and polished, probably with sandstone, into its finished form as beautiful as a Brancusi sculpture. Such polished tools are called "Neolithic" or "New Stone," and are the earliest tools that will cut wood, making possible the clearing of forests and wooden utensils from bowls to boats and houses. The grinding and polishing takes weeks of hard work for a single tool but the rewards are worth it.

Flaked tools are quickly made. A skilled flint knapper can produce an arrowhead in five minutes. With a round hammer stone flakes are struck from a nodule of flint, quartz, chert or related silicacious rock. Almost every blow produces a flat oval "blank" ready to be refined by pressure flaking into a knife, scraper, drill point, or projectile point. The flaking tool is usually a tine from a deer's antler ground to a fine strong point. With the application of the right force and precise knowledge, small flakes, sharp as broken glass, fly off in rapid succession. The knapper's hands usually need the protection of tough leather guards or they can be badly cut.

Mr. Crittendon finds the artifacts he studies at campsites by our local rivers and ponds. The adze was near Big Pond in Otis, and the smaller arrowhead was on the old Knox Trail where it crosses the Farmington River.

— David P. McAllester

LOCAL LORE (cont'd)

THE VIRTUOUS BEAVER

There is no international prize awarded for habitat alteration, but if there were, and if the contest were open to all creatures, people would of course claim first prize. With our small muscles, big brains, and huge bulldozers, we have made considerable changes in the face of the earth. Our closest competitor for the World Engineering Award is the chisel-toothed, paddle-footed aquatic rodent, the beaver. With small muscles, small brains, and no bulldozers nor building permits, beavers move mountains of mud, clear-cut the poplar forests, and change the character of thousands of acres of North American wetlands every year. For such small animals, beavers are big operators. They have been known to fell a tree 110 feet tall and 5 feet 7 inches in diameter. The longest beaver dam on record is on the Jefferson River near Three Forks, Montana. It is 2,140 feet long.

Beavers are handsome and hard-working; they are friendly, monogamous, and have a warm family life. Although their accomplishments are impressive, beavers are actually considered to be more well adapted than clever, with about half the intelligence of horses or dogs. In this case it is not the I. Q. which we so admire in our fellow engineers but the industry with which the beaver modifies its habitat to suit its needs. This is the character trait people share more with beavers than with any other creatures. We like the grand scale on which most beavers operate and we applaud the industrious lives they lead.

In the fall, like all warm-blooded residents of the northeast, the beavers are particularly busy. Their most pressing project now is storing the winter food supply. Trees must be felled and the small top branches carried to a cache near the house or lodge. Here, in water usually four to six feet deep, the branches are held under water with mud and stones. Since the wood is green it is dense and can be held down fairly easily. Once it becomes waterlogged, it will sink.

The number of beavers wintering in one house varies from two to about eight, a group usually comprising the two parents, their most recent offspring, and the children from the previous year as well. All are well fattened up and all have worked to build the food cache to support them through the winter.

In cold northern areas, when ice forms on the pond, beavers enter a closed world for the winter. They move freely under the ice, swimming to the food cache and selecting a stick to nibble. A beaver can't eat under water, but he can grab a branch in his teeth and carry it without choking on water because his lips are shaped so that they can close *behind* the front teeth, sealing off the rest of the mouth. The beaver's ears and nose are equipped with valve flaps, too, and transparent inner eyelids cover the eyes like goggles for underwater swimming.

Most beaver houses are built with at least two underwater entrances. One is steep and often curved, but the other is shallower and straighter, letting the beaver bring in big branches. Inside there is one big chamber, usually two feet high and four to six feet in diameter. Except for the watery entrances, the chamber floor is above the water and dry.

Beavers mate in January or February, and after about 12 weeks the kits are born. In preparation for her new babies, the female drives away the male and older children temporarily and makes a soft dry bed of shredded wood and grasses on the big shelf inside the house. Beaver kits weigh about one pound at birth and are born with their eyes open and a full coat of fur. They can swim right away but their fur makes them too buoyant to dive until they put on more weight. By the time they are two months old, the kits can dive and follow their parents outside the house for foraging and summer sunbathing.

During the late spring, the two-year-old beaver children are driven away from the home lodge and feeding grounds for good by the parents. Instinct tells them that their home territory can't support an ever-increasing family. The two-year-olds go off in search of a new pond or pond site and set right to work building a dam.

Dam construction varies a little, depending upon site specifications and materials available. The notion that beavers choose sites intelligently has been thoroughly debunked by observers and engineers over the last century, as has the idea that beavers can determine the direction in which they fell a tree. In fact, a beaver just starts building a dam, dealing with construction problems as they arise. Sticks are wedged under rocks with their free ends leaning in the direction of the current. The dam face is repeatedly plastered with mud and often a dam is 15 feet thick at the base when finished.

Actually, anyone who has built a dam or a pond knows that it is never truly finished. Water is a powerful force of erosion, and a beaver's life is one of constant repair work on the dam. Biologists have discovered that the sound of running water stimulates "repair behavior" in beavers. A continuously running tape loop of the sound of trickling water caused one beaver to work and work until the tape was turned off. This is industry, not intelligence.

The nearest relative to our modern-day beaver was a huge ancestor, now found only in fossils, which weighed about 400 pounds. Nowadays beavers vary fro .1 30 to 70 pounds, with the record old-timer weighing just over 100 pounds. The reason for such variation in weight is that beavers never stop growing. Theoretically, if one lived long enough it might approach its fossil ancestor in size. Beavers' incisors never stop growing either. Constant gnawing on wood keeps them worn away at the same rate at which they grow; it also keeps them extremely sharp, the ends shaped like the end of a steel chisel.

The Latin name for beaver is *Castor canadensis*, named for the castoreum or oil in its musk gland. Though it has no commercial value now, castoreum was once used as a headache cure and general panacea. It contains salicylic acid, the principal ingredient in aspirin.

Some people will never see a beaver. Some landowners with damming and flooding problems *wish* they had never seen one. For many, the beaver is a popular symbol of certain human virtues, including big white teeth (beavers' teeth are actually bright orange). For me, that powerful swimmer with his social ways is a creature from another culture which, for all its animal strangeness, goes along quite parallel to mine at times.

— Bonner McAllester

CHARCOAL IN THE WOODS

I was hiking with some friends this October, coming down from Beartown, crossing Brett Road and bushwhacking across to Fairview Road. After crossing streams and ravines, and transversing pine and hardwood forest, we entered a recently cut-over area. Coming upon a logging road, we noticed much black charcoal in the disturbed soil. First we thought it may have been the result of a recent fire, but there was no evidence of fire-scarred tree trunks. Looking more closely, we observed that the skidder had hauled logs through part of what was once a charcoal mound. I have been similar sites before, off Gould Road and Hupi Road, where chestnuts and other hardwoods grew in profusion on upland slopes. This charcoal mound site, like many others, was built and tended in a chosen spot: a flat area on the side of a hill, where the charcoal could be shoveled off into some kind of a mule-drawn cart just below. Now just try to follow the original cart-road through the grown-up woods and brush! Charcoal mounds were built in special ways, usually by covering the cut hardwood logs with sod and wet leaves or ferns. Each charcoal man had his own recipe.

Hawthorne, I believe, complained that there was not enough history beneath his feet—that composted soil of history—to give rise to a literature. We know that he found enough to enable him—and others of that "Golden Day"—to pass on those famed novels and short stories to future generations. Today a novelist walking these woods has thoughts enough to consider: foundations and old stone walls are abundant.

Imagine living in a shack or lean-to and tending these smouldering mounds through all weather. Eric Sloane writes in *A Reverence for Wood*, "At its best, the job of making charcoal was not for any normal human being. The time required for charring a small mound varied from one to two weeks, but with mounds of wood thirty feet or more round, a month was average . . . . There was no time for washing; there was seldom more shelter than a bark lean-to. And there were so many things to watch for in a 'live mound' that the man became almost part of it." Witness Hawthorne's *Ethan Brand*!

So it was the hills were stripped, and by the turn of the century so much of the Berkshires was cleared. On most any hill or prominence, one could see for miles. Each blast furnace might use more than a thousand bushels of charcoal a day, and the number of such iron-producing furnaces was close to a dozen within the region. Lime kilns too, requiring charcoal, were at that time operating in the Berkshires. And our charcoal under discussion—that almost inert substance—was used also, in the 1800s, to clean teeth, in the packing of meat, the manufacture of gunpowder, ink, black paint, and medicines. Of course, wood was used for other purposes in addition to charcoal production. Again, the result was a cleared land, panoramic views, and a scarcity of wood for fences and fuel. Chestnut was a favored wood in the making of charcoal, and today chestnut stumps abound in our upland forests, since this wood is very resistant to decay. Though the blight devastated the American Chestnut around 1910, the persistence and emergence of life shows itself in fresh sproutings. Such a small sprout tree has this very fall gone to seed and produced chestnuts—right off Hupi Road—but the busy squirrels and chipmunks must have made off quickly with these rare nuts as soon as they fell to earth. Before this tree grows much larger, it will likely be killed back by the blight infection, but someday the species may transcend this ill—an imported one—and once again become part of our forest. The unpredictable insurgence of life is a hope.

The gradual return of open agricultural land and "coaled off" hillsides to forest is a process that has been taking place for nearly a century now. What remains as signs of the past industry are the chestnut stumps,the largely hidden remains of former charcoal mounds, and perhaps a particularly durable antique iron tool in someone's barn or attic.

— Robert Rausch

Drawing by Maureen Banner

Monterey Food Project

ELW

BY WENDELL BERRY'S STANDARDS, WE'RE DOING OK

Wendell Berry, Kentucky poet-philosopher and farmer, spoke before nearly 500 rapt listeners at Monument Mountain High School on November 4. The event was sponsored by the Lindisfarne Association of West Stockbridge, Berkshire Community College, and the Monterey Food Project. Mr. Berry spoke eloquently of the deteriorating food system in the United States. He decried the "small economies" which neglect to take into account the "Great Economy," meaning the overall order of things. American agriculture, with its conglomerates, its disregard of natural resources like topsoil, and its lack of regional self-sufficiency is undermining its own base. When asked during the question and answer period what we should do to turn things around, Berry admitted it might not be possible, much less easy, but he suggested the following practical measures: educate yourself about good food, what it is and where to get it; grow as much of your own food as you can; and arrange for a direct marketing system in your community (such as a food co-op).

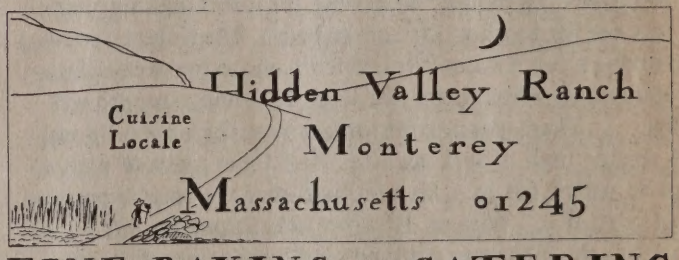
Monterey has had a food co-op for the last eight years. The Monterey Food Project is pursuing the first two goals Berry stated. So by Wendell Berry's standards, we are on the track.

FOOD DAY '84 IN PLANNING STAGES

At a meeting November 30 at Gould Farm, members of the Monterey Food Project discussed plans for Food Day 1984. A tentative date of February was set. It was decided to involve even more town groups this time than last time and to provide even more of what was most popular: good food ready to buy and eat on the spot. More details next month. Call 528-1988 to offer help and suggestions.

December Brussels sprouts

MICHÈLE MILLER



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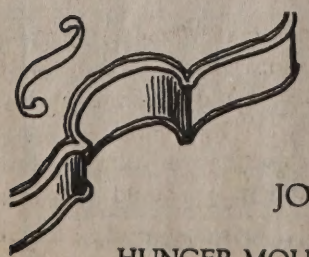

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PERSONALS

At Mt. Everett Regional's annual soccer banquet, held November 8, **David Gauthier** was presented the Most Valuable Player award by the Boys' Varsity Soccer coach, Gary Happ. David, a senior at Mt. Everett, is the son of Bob and Barbara Gauthier of Main Road.

Hannah Pedersen was presented the Most Valuable Player award at the banquet for the Girls' Varsity Soccer team by coach Robert Krol. Hannah was also chosen by members of the Berkshire County Soccer Officials Association as recipient of a Sportsmanship Award, presented to her at their annual banquet in Pittsfield on November 11. Hannah, also a senior at Mt. Everett, is the daughter of Alf and Lena Pedersen of Main Road.

Harold and **Cindy Rood**, Route 57, Monterey, had a daughter, Jennifer Almire, November 11 at Sharon (Connecticut) Hospital. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Martin Rood and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ovitt.

Shawn Ryder, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ryder, Main Road, Monterey, has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts. Shawn is a senior and is majoring in photography.

Lois Ryder provided a scratchboard logo for the new crafts catalog called "Berkshire Common Market," which will showcase Berkshire crafts.

ALAN E. PIXLEY JR.

Alan E. Pixley Jr., 36, of South Main Street, Sheffield, died November 12 at his home after a long illness.

A resident of Monterey since 1975, he had moved to Sheffield in July.

Mr. Pixley retired in 1978, due to ill health, from Becton Dickinson Corp. in Canaan, Connecticut, as a quality control inspector.

Besides his parents in South Egremont, Mr. Pixley leaves his wife, the former Patricia Becker, whom he married in January, 1971; two daughters, Noelle and Alanna Pixley, both at home, and his maternal grandmother, Helen Crine of Great Barrington.

Leonard Weber asked whether we would include the following quote in this issue, in the hope that it will challenge the minds of our readers:

"Representation of the world, like the world itself, is the work of men; They describe it from their own point of view, which they confuse with the absolute truth."

— Simone de Beauvoir

Photo by Eleanor Kimberley

Betsy Loring of West Otis recently visited Beautiful Adventure Rabbit Farm on Town Hill Road in Sandisfield. She is shown here with "Flash," a French Lop show rabbit, one of several breeds raised on this farm where visitors are always welcome.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors:

You or someone else has probably called attention to Alan Cooperman's article in *The Berkshire Eagle* of November 14, page 24. It is a good article about the coming publication of the town records of Tyringham. Nowhere in it does he mention that the years covered were before the separation of Tyringham from South Tyringham or what is now Monterey. We had the same minister, the same fights, the same town government. So this history is also our history.

— Margery Mansfield Janes

To the Editor:

I saw in the *Monterey News* that I "won a ribbon for photography at the Barrington Fair this year." I don't know who reported it. That's not important. It doesn't matter. It should have said "4 ribbons" instead of "a ribbon."

Please don't think I'm bragging. I really am not. I just feel that if it's going to be in the news, it should be correct.

— Eleanor Kimberley

You are quite right, Eleanor, and we're sorry. Many times we copy news out of other newspapers, and we are too short-staffed to check up on every fact. Congratulations on the ribbons, and, again, our apologies.—Ed.

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Deadline for all ads and articles to be typeset is the **fifteenth** of each month; for camera ready ads the deadline is the **twenty-fifth** of each month. Mail to: Box 264, Monterey, MA 01245.

If you wish to have your ad typeset, please call Eileen Clawson, 528-4835, for typesetting rates.

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1" x 3⅜" or less)	$2.50
Two-inch business cards (2" x 3⅜" or less)	5.00
Three-inch size (3" x 3⅜" or less)	7.50
Five-inch size (quarter-page size: 5" x 3⅜")	12.50
Half page (either horizontally across page or vertically, one column wide from top to bottom	25.00

No full-page ads.

Back cover rates:

2" card	10.00
Quarter page	20.00
Half page	40.00

No classifieds on back cover.

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Except where otherwise noted, photographs by Susan McAllester and drawings by Edith Wilson.

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